

Helpful Best Practices for Handling Used Motor Oil for Home or Business



RECYCLE
USED OIL

Motor oil can find its way to storm drains if it's not handled properly. Storm drains carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding, but are not connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries, such as motor oil, flow directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

Listed here are helpful best practices for citizens at work or at home, when handling used oil, chemicals, or other harmful solvents:

- Dispose of used motor oil or other hazardous chemicals properly by taking to a certified collection center or to a HHW facility.
- Take steps to stop oil before it hits the floor.
- Sweep or mop down a work or spill area.
- Use dry clean-up methods, such as "hydrophobic" mops:
 - Absorb different hazardous liquids with separate mops or rags.
 - Dedicate different containers and different absorbents for each liquid.
 - Use as many rags as necessary to clean so as not to saturate any rag.
 - Keep these rags in closed containers, and treat them as hazardous material.



think globally. act neighborly.

City of Carlsbad Environmental Programs
www.carlsbadconserves.org 760-602-4646

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Used Motor Oil Recycling Tips

- When draining used motor oil use a reusable 5-gallon or smaller size clean plastic container with a tight lid.
- Remove the oil filter from your car and drain it well for at least 24 hours. Once it is drained, place the filter in a plastic bag.
- Reuse your used motor oil container and store it safely, away from children and pets.
- Don't mix used motor oil with chemicals, gasoline, water, or other substances.
- Once the items are secure, transport them to a certified used oil recycling center.

If your oil is contaminated, you can take up to 15 gallons to your nearest Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call ahead of time for hours of operation and instructions. Bring proof of residency.

- Be aware of nearby storm drains:
 - Label nearby storm drains.
 - Block all storm drains with an impervious barrier such as sandbags or berms, plugs or rubber mats prior to washing. Be sure to clear drain later.
 - Wash vehicles and equipment on grass or gravel so wash water can seep into the ground, rather than run off impervious surfaces.
 - Take advantage of low spots on impervious surfaces to trap water that can then be pumped or vacuumed.
 - Make sure mobile and detail service providers follow these rules, and if you are using subcontractors in business, inform them as well.

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